

ASPEN A. ELLIS

Ph.D. Candidate & NOAA Dr. Nancy Foster Scholar – University of California, Santa Cruz
*Seabird conservation ecologist interested in sustainable development of renewable energy and improving
access to conservation careers for future generations of scientists*

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of California, Santa Cruz** 2021 – present
Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Advisor: Dr. Donald Croll
- B.S. University of Michigan** 2014 – 2017
Program in the Environment

PUBLICATIONS

- Ellis, A.A.**, Beck, J.N., Howard, E.A., Rabearisoa, A.L., Alissa, L.M., Barasi, S., Beltran, R.S., Bernardi, G., Bernier, K., Cronin, M.R., Cruz, N., Flores, I.T., Gerraty, F.D., Goetz, L.C., Harenčár, J.G., Kroeker, K.J., Kurle, C.M., Lai, E.Y., Lederman-Beach, R., Malakooti, N.J.V., Mason, S.E., McElfish, M.M., McNelis, M.G., Molinari, M.M., Munro, C.M.O., Nazario, E.C., Payne, A.R., Poudel, S., Rivera, M.G., Slimp, M.C., Sridhar, N.M., Tershy, B.R., Third, G.M., Uckele, K.A., Vilches, F.O., Walker, B.J., Wishingrad, V., Witte, E.C., Yeager, M.E., Young, J.K., Zilliacus, K.M., Croll, D.A.. Coalition-building for labor movements in life sciences departments: lessons from the largest academic strike in history. *In review*.
- Croll, D.A., **Ellis, A.A.**, Adams, J., Cook, A.S.C.P., Garthe, S., Goodale, M.W., Hall, S., Hazen, E., Keitt, B.S., Kelsey, E.C., Leirness, J.B., Lyons, D.E., McKown, M.W., Potiek, A., Searle, K.R., Soudijn, F.H., Rockwood, R.C., Tershy, B.R., Tinker, M., VanderWerf, E.A., Williams, K.A., Young, L., Zilliacus, K.M. Framework for Assessing and Mitigating the Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Development on Marine Birds. *Biological Conservation*. 276 (December 2022): 109795.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2022.109795>.
- Weeks, B.C., Willard, D.E., Zimova, M., **Ellis, A.A.**, Witynski, M.L., Hennen, M., Winger, B.M. 2020. Shared Morphological Consequences of Global Warming in North American Migratory Birds. *Ecology Letters*. 23(2):316–325.

PRESENTATIONS

- Ellis, A.A.**, Conceptual Overview of the Methods Available to Quantify Compensation. State of the Science Workshop on Wildlife and Offshore Wind Energy. 19 July, 2024
- Ellis, A.A.**, Adams, E., Cook, A.S.C.P., Goodale, M.W., Goyert, H., Gulka, J., Searle, K., Masden, E., Williams, K.A., Croll, D.A. Developing a Process to Fund Offsets for Cumulative Residual Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy to Marine Birds. Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting. 22 February, 2024
- Ellis, A.A.** Framework for Assessing and Mitigating the Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Development on Marine Birds. Western Society of Naturalists Annual Meeting. 12 November 2023.
- Ellis, A.A.** Panelist: What does Net Positive Impact on Biodiversity (NPI) in the Ocean Mean as it Relates to the Mitigation Hierarchy for Offshore Wind – Science Perspectives. Roger Williams University Marine Law Symposium: Can Offshore Wind Development Have a Net Positive Impact on Biodiversity? Regulatory and Scientific Perspectives and Considerations. 20 April 2023.

Ellis, A.A., Leirness, J.B., Cook, A.S.C.P., Kelsey, E.C., Zilliacus, K.M., Ballance, L., Keitt, B.S., Holmes, N., Lyons, D.E., Rockwood, R.C., Shaffer, S., Suryan, R., Croll, D.A. Offsetting to Achieve Net Positive Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy to Seabirds: Pacific Case Studies. Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting. 15 February 2023.

Ellis, A.A., Croll, D.A., Tershy, B. Considerations for Effective Compensatory Mitigation Planning for Marine Birds. Wind Wildlife Research Meeting. 17 November 2022.

Ellis, A.A., Croll, D.A., Tershy, B. Considerations for Effective Compensatory Mitigation Planning for Marine Birds. State of the Science Workshop on Wildlife and Offshore Wind Energy. 26 July 2022.

Ellis, A.A., Shannon, P., Forage Fish Abundance in Common Tern Diets, and its Implications for Seabird Populations. American Ornithological Society Annual Meeting. 4 August 2017.

Ellis, A.A., Shannon, P., Forage Fish Abundance in Common Tern Diets, and its Implications for Seabird Populations. Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting. 24 February 2017.

POSTERS

Ellis, A.A., Croll, D.A., Tershy, B. Framework for Assessing and Mitigating the Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Impacts on Marine Birds. State of the Science Workshop on Wildlife and Offshore Wind Energy. 27 July 2022.

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS (TOTAL: \$339,810)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship (\$196,000)	2022
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (declined, \$138,000)	2022
Myers Trust Research Award (\$2260)	2022
Ecological Society of America George Mercer Award	2022
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship – Honorable Mention	2021
University of California, Santa Cruz Regents Fellowship (\$2,000)	2021
Student Travel Award for Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting (\$550)	2017
Tim Schantz Memorial Scholarship (Travel & lodgings to present at Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, ~\$1000)	2014

WORK EXPERIENCE

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Homer, AK <i>Wildlife Technician</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Worked solo and as part of a team to study and monitor breeding seabird populations on St. Lazaria Island. Carried out research remotely in 2020 following cancellation of field research due to COVID-19 pandemic.	Summers 2020 & 2021
Common Murre Restoration Project El Granada, CA <i>Wildlife Technician</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Worked solo and in a 2-person team to monitor seastack colonies of seabirds with a focus on Common Murres and Brandt's Cormorants, using scopes and digital cameras to conduct research remotely	4/19 – 8/19
Save Our Shearwaters Lihue, HI <i>Avian Technician</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitored and rehabilitated native Hawaiian seabirds and waterbirds; entered, managed, and proofed data; performed community outreach	9/18 – 12/18

Conserve Wildlife Foundation New Jersey Trenton, NJ	4/18 – 8/18
<i>Crew Leader – Beach Nesting Birds Project</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led five-person field crew resighting, censusing, nest searching, and productivity monitoring for threatened and endangered coastal species; beta-tested NestStory, an application for field data collection; produced monthly reports for collaborators throughout season; produced final report for 2018 field season. 	
Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch Mackinaw City, MI	8/17 – 11/17
<i>Fall Waterbird Counter</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked independently to complete eight-hour count daily for the duration of the Fall migration period to monitor waterbird migration in the Straits of Mackinac, produced daily reports and season report summarizing local bird ecology and season counts. 	
USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center Jamestown, ND	5/17 – 7/17
<i>Crew Leader – Piping Plover and Least Tern Project</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led two-person field crew on Lake Sakakawea resighting, nest searching, trapping, and banding Piping Plovers and Least Terns. 	
Audubon Seabird Restoration Project – Project Puffin Bremen, ME	2013 – 2016
<i>Island Supervisor</i>	5/16 – 8/16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led field crew, carried out predator control, maintained data quality, produced season reports. 	5/15 – 8/15
<i>Research Assistant</i>	5/14 – 8/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performed breeding censuses, daily point counts, feeding studies, productivity surveys, trapping and banding, band resighting, habitat maintenance, invasive vegetation control, and predator control for seabird colonies on seven islands in the Gulf of Maine for four field seasons. 	5/13 – 8/13
University of Michigan Museum of Zoology Ann Arbor, MI	2011 – 2018
<i>Avian Specimen Preparator</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared skeletons and study skins of eastern bird species, collected biological samples and morphometrics on all specimens, trained new employees and university class groups. 	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Santa Cruz	
Course Designer & Instructor – Queer Ecologies	Spring 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with another graduate student in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology to conceive of and execute an identity-based seminar series for undergraduates and graduate students. 	
Graduate Teaching Assistant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecology (BIOE 107) Ecology (BIOE 107) Ecology and Evolution – Active Learning (BIOE 20C AL) 	Spring 2022 Winter 2022 Fall 2021
University of Michigan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for Ornithology. Assisted students with labs, led discussion sections and parts of lectures, provided learning resources and support to students. 	Fall 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taught ornithology labs for students on bird specimen preparation for museum collections. 	Fall 2013, 2014

INDEPENDENT OUTREACH

Women in the Environment – Panelist on the Future of Offshore Wind panel at the 2024 San Francisco Climate Week	April 2024
Middlebury Institute of International Studies Center for the Blue Economy – Panelist	October 2023
Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science – Graduate Student Panelist	June 2022
Scotts Valley High School – Presenter	May 2022
Girl Scout Troop 15015 – Interviewee	May 2022
University of Michigan Museum of Zoology ID Day – Docent	2014 – 2017
Saginaw Audubon Society – Presenter	October 2015
Capital Area Audubon Society – Presenter	October 2014
Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival – Presenter	May 2014
Washtenaw Audubon Society – Presenter	April 2014
Ohio Young Birders Club Conference – Keynote Presenter	November 2013

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Data entry, organization, and management: Microsoft Access and Excel, live data collection applications including NestStory & Dunkadoo
- Statistics: R, Github
- Mapping: ArcGIS, QGIS, R
- Red Cross CPR certified
- Department of the Interior Motorboat Operator Certification Course certified